

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

INRE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1446

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB US UR FR UK

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES
ON QA ANNIVERSARY

REFS: (A) BONN 14346; (B) STATE 210116; (C) BONN 13962;
(D) KORNBLUM-GERMAN TELECON AUGUST 30

BEGIN SUMMARY. REVISED FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS HAVE MADE
POSSIBLE AN ALLIED AGREEMENT TO REJECT THE SOVIET
PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES. END SUMMARY.

1. PARIS HAS NOW AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH THE US, UK
AND FRG PREFERENCE FOR REJECTING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL
FOR COMMEMORATING THE SEPTEMBER 3 ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT WITH AN
EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES.

2. FRENCH REP (LASSUS) REPORTED THE REVISED FRENCH
POSITION AT A TRIPARTITE MEETING OF BONN GROUP REPS ON
AUGUST 31. LASSUS STATED THAT PARIS AGREED THAT THE
SITUATION WAS NOT FAVORABLE FOR ACCEPTING THE SOVIET
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PROPOSAL AND SUGGESTED GIVING A RESPONSE TO THE

SOVIETS IN THE THREE CAPITALS ON SEPTEMBER 1. THE MESSAGE FROM PARIS STATED THAT THE FRENCH, LIKE THE US AND THE UK, COULD ENVISAGE AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FINAL QUADRIpartite PROTOCOL IN JUNE 1977 IF CIRCUMSTANCES WERE MORE FAVORABLE AT THAT TIME; THE MESSAGE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE FRENCH INTENDED TO SAY SO TO THE SOVIETS AT THIS TIME.

3. LASSUS' INSTRUCTIONS WERE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO COMMON REPLY AND THAT THE THREE SHOULD DETERMINE ON THEIR OWN HOW TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. BOTH THE US AND THE UK REPS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, WHILE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS WOULD DOUBTLESS DECIDE ON THEIR OWN WHAT TACK TO TAKE WITH THE SOVIETS, IT WAS WITHIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BONN GROUP TO OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS ON A COMMON LINE, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOVIETS' DETECTING DIFFERENCES AMONG THE THREE. STRESSING THAT THE SHIFT IN FRENCH POSITION REPRESENTED A MAJOR CONCESSION, LASSUS SAID PARIS WAS NOT SEEKING ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION AND THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO FORWARD ONE. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO REPORT TO PARIS WHAT THE US AND UK REPS WERE RECOMMENDING TO CAPITALS.

4. REALIZING THAT THE RECOMMENDATION WOULD THUS BE LACKING A FULL BONN GROUP IMPRIMATUR, US AND UK REPS AGREED TO SUGGEST TO WASHINGTON AND LONDON THAT THE RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS MIGHT CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14503

ELEMENTS:

A. IT IS NOT COMMON PRACTICE FOR OUR GOVERNMENTS
TO COMMEMORATE SUCH ANNIVERSARIES;

B. GIVEN THE FEELING AROUSED IN PUBLIC OPINION
BY EVENTS OF RECENT WEEKS, SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF
MESSAGES WOULD SEEM INCONGRUOUS; AND

C. OUR DISINCLINATION TO ENTER INTO AN EXCHANGE
OF ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE DISAGREE
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE QA OR THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
ITS POSITIVE ASPECTS.

5. ALL THREE ALLIED REPS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT IT
WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF
ENTERING INTO AN EXCHANGE NEXT JUNE.

6. AS FOR TIMING OF THE REPLY, BOTH US AND UK REPS
STATED THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS WISHED TO INFORM
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THE SOVIETS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS TODAY.
LASSUS UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS, WHILE US AND UK REPS
AGREED TO REPORT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL THAT THE REPLIES
BE GIVEN TOMORROW. THE CONSENSUS OF THE ALLIED REPS
WAS THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO COORDINATE THE TIMING
PRECISELY AND THAT NO HARM WOULD BE DONE IF THE REPLIES
WERE NOT MADE ON THE SAME DAY IN EACH CAPITAL. IT WAS
THUS UNDERSTOOD THAT NO EFFORT AT CLOSER COORDINATION
WOULD BE MADE.

7. ALLIED REPS WILL INFORM THE FRG OF THE ALLIED
DECISION AT A FULL BONN GROUP MEETING LATER TODAY.
HILLENBRAND

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